Child bonded labour

†1764.SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bonded labourers got freed in the last two years, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the children were bonded immediately after they were set free; and

(c) if so, the number of such cases which have come to light together with the reasons therefore and the action being taken against the guilty?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) The number of bonded labourers freed and rehabilitated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme during last two years and current year, State-wise are given in the Statement (*See* below)

(b) and (c) The Bonded labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 does not make any discrimination among adult bondage and child bondage. Cases of freed bonded labourers including child bonded labourers who relapsed into bondage were not reported. Action is taken under the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 against the persons found guilty for keeping labourers under bondage.

Statement

State-wise number of bonded Labourers freed and rehabilitated child bonded labour

Year	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Bonded labourers freed and rehabilitated
2002-03	Maharashtra	5
	Punjab	69
	Karnataka	1854
	Chhattisgarh	124

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Year	Name of the States/UTs	No. of Bonded labourers freed and rehabilitated
	Haryana	21
	Bihar	125
	Total	2198
2003-04	Bihar	314
	Uttar Pradesh	398
	Uttaranchal	5
	Andhra Pradesh	1699
	Orissa	39
	Rajasthan	10
	Total	2465
2004-05	Bihar	223
Upto 16.3.05	Madhya Pradesh	265
	Orissa	19
	Uttar Pradesh	41
	Karnataka	64
	Jharkhand	196
	TOTAL	808

Optimizing of EPFO Investments

1765. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EPFO has appointed a Mumbai-based investment consultant to suggest methods for optimizing the EPFO investment;